IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1 to 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11 without prejudice or disclaimer

of subject matter. Please amend the remaining claims as follows:

1. to 3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) A printer <u>for printing on a</u>

<u>recording material using a printing head which ejects ink, said printer being communicably</u>

<u>connectable with an information processing apparatus through communication means from</u>

<u>which one or more commands are received, said printer</u> comprising:

analyzing means for analyzing the ~~signal~~ <u>command</u> received from ~~external~~

~~means;~~

~~preparation means for executing preparation to be executed prior to printing~~

~~action when a result of~~ <u>the information processing apparatus;</u>

<u>discriminating means for discriminating whether a cleaning operation is</u>

<u>necessary before a printing operation, when</u> analysis by said analyzing means indicates that

~~signal is instructions of the preparation;~~ <u>the command is a notification of preparation</u>

<u>before printing;</u>

<u>preparation means for effecting the cleaning operation for the printing head</u>

<u>prior to the printing operation when analysis by said analyzing means indicates that the</u>

<u>command is a notification of preparation before printing and discrimination by said</u>

<u>discriminating means indicates that the cleaning operation is necessary; and</u>

printing means for executing, when ~~a result of~~ analysis by said analyzing

means indicates that ~~signal~~ the command is print data, the printing ~~process~~ operation on the

basis of the print data.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) A printer according to Claim 4, wherein the ~~signal~~

command is an interface signal exchanged with the ~~external means~~ information processing

apparatus.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) A printer according to Claim ~~7~~4, wherein said

preparation means effects suction recovery of said ~~ink jet~~ printing head.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) A printing system ~~including~~ comprising a printer

for printing on a recording material using a printing head which ejects ink, an information

processing apparatus, and ~~an external printer which are communicatably connected through~~

~~communicating means,~~ communication means for communicably connecting said printer

and said information processing apparatus, said printing system further comprising:

notifying means for ~~effecting pre-print notification to~~ sending a command for notifying said ~~external~~ printer of a preparation before printing through said communicating means ~~when execution of printing is instructed~~;

generating means for processing, after the ~~pre-print~~ preparation before printing notification of said notifying means, data to be printed to generate print data;

~~sending means for sending the print data generated by said generating means to said external printer through said communicating means, said external printer including:~~

~~preparation means for executing, in response to pre-print notification provided by said communicating means, preparation to be executed prior to printing action; and~~

~~printing means for executing printing process on the basis of print data sent by said sending means.~~

wherein said printer includes:

analyzing means for analyzing the command received from the information processing apparatus;

discriminating means for discriminating whether a cleaning operation is necessary before a printing operation, when analysis by said analyzing means indicates that the command is a notification of preparation before printing;

preparation means for effecting the cleaning operation for the printing head prior to the printing operation when analysis by said analyzing means indicates that the

- 4 -

command is a notification of preparation before printing and discrimination by said discriminating means indicates that the cleaning operation is necessary; and

printing means for executing, when analysis by said analyzing means indicates that the command is print data, the printing operation on the basis of the print data.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) A printing method for printing by a printer on a recording material using a printing head which ejects ink, said printer being communicably connectable with an information processing apparatus through communication means from which one or more commands are received, said method comprising:

an analyzing step of analyzing ~~a signal~~ the command received from ~~outside~~ the information processing apparatus;

a discriminating step of discriminating whether a cleaning operation is necessary before a printing operation, when analysis by said analyzing step indicates that the command is a notification of a preparation before printing;

a preparation step of ~~executing preparation to be executed prior to printing when the signal is indicative of instructions of preparation~~ effecting the cleaning operation for the printing head prior to the printing ~~as a result of~~ operation when analysis of said analyzing step indicates that the command is a notification of preparation before printing

and discrimination by said discriminating means indicates that the cleaning operation is necessary; and

a printing step of ~~execution printing process~~ executing, when analysis of said analyzing step indicates that the command is print data, the printing operation on the basis of the ~~print data when the signal is indicative of~~ print data.

13. (Currently Amended) A control method for a printing system ~~including~~ ~~a~~ comprising a printer for printing on a recording material using a printing head which ejects ink, an information processing apparatus ~~and an external printer connectable with each other for communication through,~~ and communicating means for communicably connecting said printer and said information processing apparatus, said method comprising:-

a notification step of sending a command for notifying said ~~external~~ printer of ~~pre-print notification~~ a preparation before printing through said communicating means ~~when execution of printing is instructed;~~

an analyzing step for analyzing the command received from the information processing apparatus;

a discriminating step for discriminating whether a cleaning operation is necessary before a printing operation, when analysis by said analyzing step indicates that the command is a notification of preparation before printing;

a preparation step ~~of executing preparation to be executed prior to printing~~ ~~in said external printer in accordance with the pre-print~~ for effecting the cleaning operation for the printing head prior to the printing operation when analysis by said analyzing step indicates that the command is a notification of ~~said notification step;~~ preparation before printing and discrimination by said discriminating step indicates that the cleaning operation is necessary;

a generating step of processing, after the ~~pre-print~~ notification of said notifying step, data to be printed;

a sending step of sending the print data generated by said generating step to said ~~external~~ printer through said communicating means; and

a printing step of executing the printing ~~process~~ operation in accordance with print data sent by said sending step.

14. (Currently Amended) A memory medium for storing a control program for ~~operating a computer of~~ a printer which prints on a recording material using a printing head which ejects ink, said printer communicating with an information processing apparatus ~~connected~~ through communicating means ~~with an external printer~~ communicably connecting said printer and said information processing apparatus, wherein said control program ~~comprising~~ comprises:

a code of a notification process of sending a command for notifying said ~~external~~ printer of ~~pre-print~~ notification a preparation before printing through said communicating means ~~when execution of printing is instructed~~;

a code of a generating process of processing, after the ~~pre-print~~ notification

of said ~~notifying~~ <u>notification</u> process, data to be printed to generate print data; and

a code of a sending process of sending the print data generated by said

generating process to said ~~external~~ printer through said communicating means.